

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MUNICH 01996 171641Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

/069 W

----- 006458

R 171545Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6199

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUNICH 1996

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: CSU HOLDS CONVENTION AND CELEBRATES FRANZ

FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

1. SUMMARY. CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION (CSU) CONVENTION AND CELEBRATION OF CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS'S 60TH BIRTHDAY PROVIDED OCCASION FOR TRIBUTES TO STRAUSS BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDU) CHAIRMAN AND CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL AND OTHERS AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITY TO AIR ISSUES WHICH THE SISTER PARTIES WILL CHAMPION IN 1976 BUDESTAG ELECTIONS. CDU AND CSU DOWNPLAYED THEIR DIFFERENCES AND PROJECTED IMAGE OF ELECTION-YEAR HARMONY. END SUMMARY.

2. PARTEITAG - WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 12-14 WAS OCCASION OF 1975 PARTEITAG (PARTY CONVENTION) OF BAVARIA'S
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MUNICH 01996 171641Z

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION (CSU) AND FESTIVE CELEBRATION

OF CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS'S 60TH BIRTHDAY: STRAUSS THE "GEBURTSTAGKIND" DOMINATED THE PARTEITAG, DELIVERING FORMAL SPEECH TO DELEGATES SEPTEMBER 13, SPEAKING EXTEMPORANEOUSLY AT HOFBRAUHAS THAT EVENING, AND ADDRESSING CROWD OF 15,000 BEFORE FLOODLIT RATHAUS ON MARIENPLATZ SEPTEMBER 14. ENTHUSIASM STRAUSS GENERATED ON EACH OCCASION INDICATED THAT MAGNETISM HE EXERTS OVER CSU FAITHFUL IS UNDIMINISHED. CDU CHAIRMAN AND CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL AND CDU/CSU BUDESTAGSFRAKTION LEADER CARSTENS HEADED LIST OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, WHICH INCLUDED EX-CHANCELLOR ERHARD AND CDU GENERAL SECRETARY BIEDENKOPF. THE 800-ODD DELEGATES APPLAUDED KOHL'S PARTEITAG ADDRESS WITH APPROPRIATE, IF RESTRAINED, WARMTH, WHILE CARSTENS, WHO DELIVERED HARD-HITTING, PARTISAN SPEECH, RECEIVED GENUINE OVATION.

3. BIRTHDAY FETE - CSU PRESIDIUUM HELD SUNDAY MORNING (SEPTEMBER 14) RECEPTION IN HONOR OF STRAUSS'S 60TH BIRTHDAY IN COURTYARD OF FORMER BAVARIAN ROYAL RESIDENCE. KOHL, CARSTENS AND OTHER GUESTS WERE TREATED TO LAVISH SPREAD OF BAVARIAN DELICACIES AND ENTERTAINED BY A BRASS BAND IN NATIONAL COSTUME. BAVARIAN STATE MINISTER FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS HEUBL GAVE TESTIMONIAL SPEECH IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED STRAUSS AS "A HERCULES OF GERMAN POLITICS" AND STATESMAN IN TRUEST SENSE OF WORD WHILE KOHL CALLED STRAUSS "AN ARCHITECT OF POST-WAR ERA" AND "SYMBOL OF SOLID ECONOMIC AND FINANCE POLICY".

4. COMMON THEMES - PARTEITAG SPEECHES OF STRAUSS, KOHL AND CARSTENS AND STRAUSS'S MARIENPLATZ ADDRESS CONTAINED FOLLOWING COMMON THEMES:

A. SPD/FDP MISMANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY - GOVERNMENT WAS ACCUSED OF SQUANDERING SAVINGS ACCUMULATED BY CDU/CSU GOVERNMENTS BEFORE 1969, MISLEADING PUBLIC BY BLAMING FRG ECONOMIC DOWNTURN ON WORLD RECESSION AND FALSELY AND OPPORTUNISTICALLY PROCLAIMING UPTURN EARLIER THIS YEAR IN ORDER INFLUENCE LOCAL ELECTIONS.

B. DANGER OF SPD LEFT - KOHL AND STRAUSS SAW SPD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MUNICH 01996 171641Z

AS DIVIDED INTO DEMOCRATS WHO BELIEVE IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS AND DANGEROUS LEFTISTS, SOME OF WHOM ARE FRIENDS OF COMMUNISTS. CARSTENS JOINED THEM IN POINTING TO DANGER OF GRADUAL SLIDE INTO COMPLETE SOCIALISM AND UNHAPPY CONSEQUENCES THIS WOULD HAVE FOR DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE.

C. COALITION TOO DOCILE TOWARD EAST - KOHL SUGGESTED

COALITION HAD ADOPTED DEFENSIVE POLICY TOWARD EAST, CARSTENS SAID CSCE HAD CHANGED NOTHING FOR THE BETTER, AND STRAUSS DECLARED THAT SPD/FDP HAD GIVEN AWAY "AN ORCHARD FOR AN APPLE". KOHL AND STRAUSS EMPHASIZED THAT CDU AND CSU HAD NOT GIVEN UP PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR GERMAN NATION.

D. FDP, A "ME-TOO" PARTY - FDP WAS ATTACHED FOR HAVING ALLEGEDLY ABANDONED ITS LIBERAL ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES AND FAILING TO CURB SOCIALIST EXPERIMENTS. KOHL QUESTIONED WHETHER FDP WAS IN POSITION TO TAKE INDEPENDENT POSITIONS ON ISSUES.

E. CDU/CSU UNITY - KOHL AND CARSTENS SPOKE REPEATEDLY OF NEED FOR CSU/CDU UNITY AND STRAUSS MADE IT CLEAR THAT KOHL IS CDU/CSU CANDIDATE FOR CHANCELLOR. NO RPT NO RESPONSIBLE CSU VOICES PROMOTED IDEA OF EXTENDING CSU BEYOND BAVARIA.

5. DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS - STRAUSS USED STRONGER RHETORIC AND TOOK HARDER LINE THAN KOHL AND CARSTENS ON SEVERAL ISSUES. HE WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE SPECIFIC THAN THEY ON SUBJECT OF HOW ECONOMY SHOULD BE RUN, ADVOCATING FREER HAND FOR MANAGEMENT IN INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTION DECISIONS, CORPORATE TAX REDUCTIONS, GUARANTEES AGAINST "SOCIALIZATION" OF INDUSTRY, AND BETTER BREAK FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES. TONE OF STRAUSS'S CRITICISM OF SPD/FDP OSTPOLITIK WAS MARKEDLY HARSHER THAN THAT OF KOHL AND CARSTENS. STRAUSS SPOKE OF SIX YEARS OF SELLOUT BY "BONN MOSCOW PILGRIMS" AND DELIVERED HARSH PERSONAL ATTACK (IN MARIENPLATZ SPEECH) ON BRANDT, ACCUSING HIM OF OPENING DOOR TO GAINS BY SOVIET IMPERIALISM AND BEARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MUNICH 01996 171641Z

"TRAGEDY" WHICH BEGAN WITH MOSCOW TREATY AND LED TO HELSINKI. (ALTHOUGH CRITICAL OF MANNER IN WHICH OSTPOLITIK IMPLEMENTED, KOHL TOOK FAR MORE MODERATE POSITION STATING: "WE SAY YES TO POLICY OF DETENTE AND CONTROLLED DISARMAMENT, BUT NOT AT PRICE OF LIBERTY OF THIS COUNTRY.") WHILE KOHL AND CARSTENS CRITICIZED SOME OF THEIR OPPONENTS BY NAME, THEY DID NOT ENGAGE IN KIND OF BITING AND DERISIVE ATTACKS THAT STRAUSS DIRECTED AT BRANDT, WEHNER AND SCHMIDT.

6. STRAUSS'S FUTURE - BOTH STRAUSS'S ADDRESS TO PARTEITAG AND KOHL'S REMARKS AT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (SEE PARA 3) CONTAINED HINTS ABOUT STRAUSS'S POSSIBLE ROLE IN SHADOW CABINET AS WELL AS IN A FUTURE CDU/CSU OR CDU/CSU/FDP GOVERNMENT. STRAUSS'S STATEMENT TO PARTEITAG

DELEGATES THAT HE IS VERY CAREFUL ABOUT EXPRESSING HIS VIEWS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS AS HE IS FULLY AWARE THAT IN FEW MONTHS HE MIGHT HAVE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA, SEEMED SUPPORT SPECULATION HE WILL HOLD SHADOW CABINET FINANCE PORTFOLIO POSSIBLY COMBINED WITH ECONOMIC PORTFOLIO, THUS GIVING HIM, IN EVENT OF CDU/CSU VICTORY, MAJOR ROLE IN ALL ASPECTS OF COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC LIFE.

7. COMMENT. A. STRAUSS STRENGTHENED - JUXTAPOSITION OF STRAUSS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND CSU PARTEITAG WAS CLEARLY NOT RPT NOT ACCIDENTAL. STRAUSS UTILIZED BOTH TO ENHANCE HIS IMAGE AS MR. BAVARIA AND TO EMPHASIZE HIS IMPORTANCE ON FEDERAL LEVEL. PARTICIPATION OF KOHL AND CARSTENS IN PARTEITAG AND BIRTHDAY FETE UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF STRAUSS AND CSU TO CDU.

B. KOHL AND CARSTENS - WHILE MORE AT EASE THAN IN SIMILAR APPEARANCES EARLIER THIS YEAR, KOHL WAS STILL SOMEWHAT STIFF. CARSTENS, IN CONTRAST, PROVED FORCEFUL AND WITTY ORATOR, DRAWING WARM OVATIONS AT PARTEITAG AND HOFBRAUHAUS. MORE RESTRAINED, ALBEIT CORDIAL, WELCOME ACCORDED KOHL WAS PROBABLY DUE TO HIS FLAT ORATORICAL STYLE AS WELL AS HIS MORE MODERATE APPROACH TO ISSUES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 MUNICH 01996 171641Z

C. CDU/CSU DIFFERENCES - STRAUSS'S PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY CANNOT BE ENTIRELY PLEASING TO KOHL AND OTHER CSU LEADERS WHO NEED SUPPORT FROM WORKERS IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA AND ELSEWHERE OUTSIDE BAVARIA TO MAKE GOOD SHOWING IN BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. STRAUSS'S HARSH CRITICISM OF OSTPOLITIK AND PENCHANT FOR MAKING IT A MAJOR ISSUE COULD ALSO COMPLICATE CDU'S EFFORT TO ATTRACT BROAD SPECTRUM OF VOTERS.

D. STRAUSS'S FEDERAL ROLE - STRAUSS AND KOHL CLEARLY SUGGESTED THAT STRAUSS WOULD HAVE MAJOR VOICE IN ECONOMIC POLICY IF CDU/CSU WERE TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER STRAUSS WILL ACTUALLY BE NAMED AS FINANCE MINISTER (AND PERHAPS ALSO ECONOMICS MINISTER) IN CDU/CSU SHADOW CABINET. IN EVENT CDU/CSU SHOULD HAVE OPTION OF FORMING COALITION WITH FDP FOLLOWING BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS, CDU MIGHT FACE DIFFICULTY ACCOMMODATING DESIRES OF BOTH STRAUSS AND FDP FOR SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC PORTFOLIOS.

SPIVACK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUNICH01996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750322-0869
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750944/aaaabmni.tel
Line Count: 222
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSU HOLDS CONVENTION AND CELEBRATES FRANZ FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS'S 60TH BIRTHDAY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, CDU, CSU, (STRAUSS, FRANZ JOSEF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006